IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1, 3, 5, and 7 and please add new Claims 12-15 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus comprising:

image input means for inputting an image including a person's head;

image attached information input means for inputting information attached to the image input by the image input means, wherein the attached information includes at least four values, one of which indicates that the attached information includes no significant photographing-position information, a second of which indicates that the image is upright, a third of which indicates that the image is horizontal with the person's head on the right of the rest of the image, and a fourth of which indicates that the image is horizontal with the person's head on the left of the rest of the image;

face detection means for detecting a face from the image input by the image input means;

face-detection angle-range information determination means for determining an angle range used in a process of detecting a face from the input image on the basis of the image attached information input by the image attached information input means; and

process control means having a mode to control the execution of the face detecting process on the basis of information indicating the angle range determined by the face-detection angle-range information determination means.

2. (Original) The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the process control means controls the execution of the face detecting process in predetermined angle increments.

3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to Claim 1 or 2, further comprising:

image rotation means for rotating ~~an~~ the input image,

wherein the process control means allows the image rotation means to rotate the input image in order to form images in predetermined angle increments, and performs the face detecting process to the respective images.

4. (Original) The apparatus according to Claim 1 or 2, further comprising:

reference data conversion means for converting face detection reference data used for face detection into reference data for a tilted face,

wherein the process control means allows the reference data conversion means to convert the face detection reference data into reference data for a tilted face in order to form tilted-face reference data in predetermined angle increments, and executes the face detecting process to the input image using the formed tilted-face reference data.

5. (Currently Amended) An image processing method comprising:

an image input step of inputting an image including a person's head;

an image attached information input step of inputting information attached to the image input in the image input step, wherein the attached information includes at least four values, one of which indicates that the attached information includes no significant photographing-position information, a second of which indicates that the image is upright, a third of which indicates that the image is horizontal with the person's head on the right of the rest of the image, and a fourth

of which indicates that the image is horizontal with the person's head on the left of the rest of the image;

a face detection step of detecting a face from the image input in the image input step;

a face-detection angle-range information determination step of determining an angle range used in a process of detecting a face from the input image on the basis of the image attached information input in the image attached information input step; and

a process control step having a mode to control the execution of the face detecting process on the basis of information indicating the angle range determined in the face-detection angle-range information determination step.

6. (Original) The method according to Claim 5, wherein in the process control step, the execution of the face detecting process is controlled in predetermined angle increments.

7. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 5 or 6, further comprising:

an image rotation step of rotating ~~an~~ the input image,

wherein in the process control step, images are formed in predetermined angle increments by rotating the input image in the image rotation step, and the face detecting process is performed to the respective formed images.

8. (Original) The method according to Claim 5 or 6, further comprising:

a reference data conversion step of converting face detection reference data used for face detection into reference data for a tilted face,

wherein in the process control step, tilted-face reference data is formed in predetermined angle increments by converting the face detection reference data into reference data for a tilted face in the reference data conversion step, and the face detecting process is performed to the input image using the formed tilted-face reference data.

9. (Previously Presented) A computer-system executable program which is stored on a computer-readable medium and allows a computer system for executing the program to operate as the image processing apparatus according to Claim 1 or 2.

10. (Previously Presented) A computer-program storage medium in which a computer program is stored, the program realizing the image processing method according to Claim 5 or 6 and indicating operating procedures of steps included in the method.

11. (Previously Presented) A computer program which is stored on a computer-readable medium for realizing the image processing method according to Claim 5 or 6 and indicating operating procedures of steps included in the method.

12. (New) The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein, in the case the value is zero, the angle range is set to 0 to 360 degrees.

13. (New) The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein, in the case the value is different from zero, the angle range is set to ± 90 degrees about a central axis.

14. (New) The method according to Claim 5, wherein, in the case the value is zero, the angle range is set to 0 to 360 degrees.

15. (New) The method according to Claim 5, wherein, in the case the value is different from zero, the angle range is set to ± 90 degrees about a central axis.